Replacement of MIG-21 Aircrafts

*140. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of MIG-21 aircrafts has been causing concern to the Government due to many mishaps;

(b) if so, the details of alternative options being considered to replace MIG-21 aircraft;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to develop and manufacture indigenously, multi-role fighter jets superior to Mirage and MIG-29 aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. The Government has been concerned regarding the accidents of MiG-21. However, aircraft including MiG-21 are cleared to fly only when they are certified 100 % airworthy. Mishaps occur due to a variety of reasons, the major ones being Human. Error and Technical Defect. Preventive measures have been initiated by Indian Air Force (IAF) to identify and remove the causes found responsible for mishaps.

The IAF has formulated modernisation plans to enhance its combat fleet in terms of quality as well as quantity. Plans are in hand to augment squadron force levels and for upgrading the existing fleet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Corrupt practices by CIL officials

765. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official of Coal India Limited complained to Chief Vigilance Commissioner regarding corrupt practices indulged by one General Manager, Personnel of CIL ;

(b) whether the complainant has been transferred subsequently;

(c) the reasons for such transfer;

(d) whether Government have received any representation against this transfer; and

(e) if so, the response of Government on the representation?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI) : (a) An official of Coal India Limited had handed over certain papers concerning the then GM (Personnel) of Coal India Limited to the Central Vigilance Commission in November, 2001.

(b) and (c). The official was occupying a post for a long time and as per the transfer policy of Coal India Limited he was transferred.

(d) Some representations have been received by the Government against this transfer.

(e) These are being examined by the concerned authorities.

Discovery of Diamond Mines in Orissa

766. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discovered new diamond mines in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the approximate areas in which diamond mines are located;

(c) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of those diamond mines; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI): (a) to (d) As per information received from Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of Department of Mines, the Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Orissa, with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) technical assistance, undertook exploration for diamond in the parts of Nuapada District, Orissa. During the course of exploration one diamondiferrous kimberlite/Lamproitic body has been discovered near Kalmi-dadar (north west of Dharmabandha) in the northern part of Nuapada. Besides, two altered ultra basic bodies of olivine/lamproite composition have been discovered to the east, near Supali and to south near Pokkanpadar of aforesaid Kalmidadar body. Bulk sampling and processing have ascertained that the Kalmidadar body is diamondiferrous. Besides, applications for grant of Reconnaissance Permits, *inter alia,* for diamond in Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Nawarangpur Districts of Orissa have been accorded prior approval by the central Government.

Performance of Nalco

767. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector undertaking, National Aluminium company (NALCO) has been earning profit ;